

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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MAMEMBASSY WARSAW 1916

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, BU, UR
SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV-BREZHNEV MEET IN CRIMEA

REF: SOFIA 1646

1. FOLLOWING VIRTUAL SILENCE ON PARTY FIRST SECRETARY ZHIVKOV'S "SHORT VACATION" IN THE SOVIET UNION, ALL MAJOR BULGARIAN NEWSPAPERS ON AUG 15 CARRY REPORT, WITH ACCOMPANYING PHOTO OF THE PRINCIPALS AND OTHERS, ON MEETING BETWEEN ZHIVKOV AND BREZHNEV.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES, THE ZHIVKOV-BREZHNEV MEETING TOOK PLACE MONDAY, AUG 14. (ZHIVKOV DEPARTED FOR THE SOVIET UNION, PRESUMABLY THE CRIMEA, AUG 12.) CPSU POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO AND BREZHNEV'S ASSISTANT ANATOLIY BLATOV WERE PRESENT ON
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THE SOVIET SIDE, WHILE ZHIVKOV'S CHEF DE CABINET MILKO BALEV ATTENDED ON THE BULGARIAN SIDE. BULGARIAN RADIO REPORTED THAT ZHIVKOV RETURNED TO BULGARIA AUG 15.

3. DISCUSSIONS EVIDENTLY CENTERED ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES. BOTH LEADERS REPORTEDLY NOTED WITH SATISFACTION PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS

PROMOTING COOPERATION AND RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN PARTICULAR, THEY NOTED THAT DIRECT CONTACTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AMONG MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT THE NUMBER OF JOINT PROJECTS IS INCREASING. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL PLAN FOR SPECIALIZATION AND COOPERATION IN MATERIAL PRODUCTION UNTIL 1990, "WHOSE WORK HAS ENTERED A DECISIVE PHASE," WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR BRINGING THE TWO COUNTRIES CLOSER TOGETHER.

4. ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES, THE PRESS MENTIONED THAT BOTH SIDES "EXCHANGED VIEWS." THE TWO LEADERS -- EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH SIDES ADHERE TO "THE POLICY OF DETENTE" AND TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI; -- EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND OVER THE "NEW SEPARATE STEPS" WHICH MAKE THE ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT; -- POINTED OUT THAT CHINA'S "HEGEMONIC COURSE" IS "DEEPLY HOSTILE" TO THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM. THEY ALSO REITERATED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH VIETNAM WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO "FLAGRANT PRESSURE" FROM THE CHINESE; -- STRESSED THE "PARAMOUNT" ROLE OF THE WARSAW PACT IN GUARANTEEING PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE.

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5. IN TOUCHING ON THE SENSITIVE ISSUE OF THE BALKANS, THE PRESS REPORTED THAT ZHIVKOV "INFORMED" THE SOVIET LEADER OF BULGARIA'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PEACE AND COOPERATION IN THE REGION -- AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE PRESENT STATE OF POLEMICS BETWEEN BELGRADE AND SOFIA. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF MACEDONIAN MINORITIES IN BULGARIA AND THEIR TREATMENT. HOWEVER, IN LANGUAGE THAT PERMITTED THE SOVIETS TO SIDE-STEP MENTIONING THE YUGOSLAVS, BOTH SIDES MERELY "VOICED THE MCPE" THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE BALKAN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT ALLOW THE REGION TO BECOME AN OBJECT FOR INTRIGUES AND ASPIRATIONS OF "FORCE HOSTILE TO DETENTE AND PEACE."
GARTHOFF

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